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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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1. The remarks which follow apply generally to travel restrictions in the Wuhan and Shanghai areas, and it is believed that they apply elsewhere in China where the machinery of local government is functioning efficiently.
2. In two years between the Communist occupation and the recent completion of the census, few restrictions were imposed. The regulations have now tightened and cross-checks have been instituted. For instance, in towns a permit must now be "chopped" by the head of the small residents' group, who then submits it to the public safety sub-station. The head of the family is generally required to collect the permit himself. Bona fide business travelers wishing to move within the Central and South China Area rarely have their permits refused. Persons wishing to travel within the same region for family reasons are a little less kindly treated, in that the period of validity of the pass is kept as short as possible and the head of the family made responsible for the applicant's punctual return.
3. Travel outside the Central and South China Area (or in the case of the East China Area) requires a special permit, which is usually, at least for non-Party members, most laborious to obtain. It is not, however, out of the question to apply openly for permission to go abroad via Macao or Hong Kong; but a secret investigation is always made to ensure that the applicant has no undesirable (e.g. political) motives for leaving the country. The establishment in February 1951 of five Frontier Defence Bureaus at Canton, Kongmoon, Shumchun and two other points has facilitated the control of emigration. Since the establishment of these bureaus, it has become necessary, when proceeding abroad, to exchange an exit permit and a special permit at the city or county public safety bureau for a passport.
4. It is a normal practice in public safety bureaus at Shanghai and Hankow to exact a bribe from anyone who wants his passport in a hurry. In early August 1951 the bribe was an equivalent of US \$25 at Tsingtao, and an exit permit for Hong Kong via Canton cost an equivalent of HK \$150 in Hankow.
5. In order to suppress this corruption, steps have been periodically taken by the authorities, such as the arrest of police officials on 7 April 1951 in Shanghai. After these arrests, while the racket was being cleaned up, no exit permits were issued for more than two months. During this period,

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commercial travelers and legitimate businessmen did make journeys when necessary, but the issue of travel permits was only resumed on 1 July.

6. The procedure for obtaining a permit to travel within China, but outside the Central and South China Area is described by a resident of Wuchang as follows:

The applicant gets a blank form from the public safety sub-bureau, fills it in, has it "chopped" with the seals of the shop and the shop-keeper, gets it guaranteed and "chopped" by two other shops and passes it to the head of the small residents' group. The head "chops" it and takes it to the "street government", who "chops" it again and sends it to the public safety sub-bureau. The sub-bureau interviews the applicant at length and, if satisfied with his reasons for travel, issues a permit for a maximum of forty days, usually much less.

7. Every returned traveler is thoroughly cross-questioned, especially if he is late returning. In the case of persons traveling for family reasons, this interrogation is often an outlet for the local despots' bullying instinct. In the case of business travelers, however, it fulfills the purpose of helping the Taxation Bureau to assess his liability for a business profits tax. The questions asked include a diary of the trip, exact description of goods carried, customs duty paid, prices obtained on sale, particulars of buyers and middle-men, travelling expenses and profits. The Taxation Bureaus are especially thorough in their questioning of persons returning from Hong Kong, as they are anxious to discover whether all the money earned has been duly remitted home through an authorized bank.
8. Persons who are never granted traveling permits include those who are on the local counter-revolutionary list (all former Nationalist officials) and the general black list (all reactionary classes, such as former landlords).
9. In East China, but apparently not in the Hankow area, passes are issued for travels between villages whenever the visits involve spending a night away from home. Such documents, however, are usually very simple; for example, a village schoolmaster in Pingyang, Chekiang did a thriving trade in forged travel permits until he was arrested. Even in areas where no document is necessary for travel within villages, official permission must be obtained and unauthorized journeys do not go unpunished.

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